

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Release date: April 15, 2005
Contact: Cindy Petterson, 775/ 687-9395
Email: pio@ndep.nv.gov
Page 1 of 2



KENNY C. GUINN, *Governor*

Allen Biaggi, *Director*

Leo Drozdoff, *Administrator*

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NEWS RELEASE

STATE PROMOTES ZERO WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT EARTH DAY 2005

NDEP sponsors Earth Day events at Lake Tahoe, Pahrump, Reno and Winnemucca

CARSON CITY— In 2005, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection will support Earth Day events in Reno, Tahoe/Truckee, South Lake Tahoe, Pahrump and Winnemucca. The agency will continue to encourage waste reduction and recycling at Earth Day by leading Zero Waste efforts. NDEP also will provide information about Low Impact Development, preservation of Nevada's precious water resources and protection of air quality.

NDEP supports Earth Day at the following Nevada events:

- **4/22/05: 3rd Earth Day Celebration in Winnemucca**, Winnemucca Community Garden
- **4/23/05: 2nd South Lake Tahoe Earth Day Festival**, Heavenly Village 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **4/23/05: 3rd Annual Earth Day in Pahrump**, Honeysuckle Park 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **4/24/05: 15th Annual Earth Day in Reno**, Idlewild Park 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **4/30/05: 5th Tahoe Truckee Earth Day Festival in North Lake Tahoe**, the Village at Squaw Valley USA 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

NDEP funds the Erase Your Trace program developed by Environmental Leadership to minimize environmental impacts of special events in the Reno-Sparks area. NDEP initiated a program of corn-based to-go ware to replace plastic eating utensils, paper plates and cups at food stations throughout Earth Day events and arranged for composting services for the food and to-go ware waste. At the NDEP recycling booth, Earth Day participants can enter the "Guess the Waste" contest to guess how much waste will be generated at the event. The guess closest to the amount of waste generated at the event will win an Earth Machine backyard composter. Other prizes including free bags of compost and corn-based thermal mugs will be awarded for attendees who properly recycle at the event. NDEP also supports the recycled paper-making booths at the Lake Tahoe events.

"At Earth Day in 2000 I was struck by the amount of waste generated at the event," the Division's Recycling Coordinator, David Friedman, said. "I proposed the idea of promoting Zero Waste to the organizers of Earth Day events and received an enthusiastic response. We have worked together to encourage participants to reduce the amount of waste generated and focused on recycling and diverting materials from landfill disposal. With the corn-based biodegradable serving ware, the food and its packaging is disposed directly into the compost bin. NDEP then supports the return of compost generated by the Reno and Tahoe events to venues selected by the event organizers and the event moves towards a Zero Waste Earth Day."

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706
Phone: 775/687-4670
Fax: 775/687-5856

STATE PROMOTES ZERO WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT EARTH DAY 2005

Release date: April 15, 2005

Contact: Cindy Petterson, 775/ 687-9395 Email: pio@ndep.nv.gov

Page 2 of 2

NDEP is a sponsor of Nevada Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), an education enrichment program for grades K-12 that fosters awareness and stewardship of water resources. At the Reno Earth Day Project WET booth, participants will learn about the properties of water and create rainsticks, an instrument used by Native American and other cultures to imitate the sound of rain.

"NDEP planned a rainstick activity to highlight the importance of our limited water resources," Mary Kay Riedl, NDEP Project WET Coordinator, said. "Through Project WET we incorporate a learning experience about the relationship of water resources with the Native American culture. This year we thought it timely to celebrate a Nevada native, Sarah Winnemucca, following the recent Sarah Winnemucca statue dedication in the State Capitol."

The result of growth and urbanization in Nevada is an increase in impervious surfaces—a change in surface that has a major impact on local hydrology. Urban and stormwater runoff carry pollutants such as pesticides, fertilizers, sediment, bacteria and hydrocarbons directly into rivers and streams. The Water Quality Planning booth features information on the effects of urbanization on the water cycle and provides examples of low impact development techniques that can be used to minimize impacts to water resources.

At the Pahrump Earth Day, NDEP has teamed up with Nye County to educate participants about particle pollution and the County's Fugitive Dust Ordinances. The NDEP and Nye County exhibit will include information to explain the properties of particulate matter or dust, why it's important to control dust and explain the new county ordinance and dust control measures that will serve to reduce particulate matter and protect human health.

"NDEP's message is 'got dust, keep it down'," said Corey-Lynn Kern, Bureau of Air Quality Planning. "Airborne dust is particle pollution that is so small that it passes through the nasal passage and may cause damage to the lungs. Children, the elderly and people with respiratory or heart disease can be especially affected by particle pollution. Businesses and individuals can work together to ensure that dust stays on the ground and not in the air."

For more information on the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Earth Day 2005, visit our Web site at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/earthday05.htm>

#